REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, dated September 26, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 8-13, 16, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by PANDYA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,792,502); rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over PANDYA et al. in view of LINEBACK, "Virage Announces First Embedded Content-Addressable Memory for Routers, Switches," www.siliconstrategies.com/article/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=10812751, June 19, 2000; and rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over PANDYA et al. in view of NATARAJ et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,757,779). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Claims 1-16 and 18-21 remain pending.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 16, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by PANDYA et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a CPU in a network device. The CPU includes an arithmetic logic unit, and a ternary content addressable memory operatively coupled to the arithmetic logic unit within the CPU and configured to perform one or more matching operations. Applicants note that support for these features can be found in Applicants' Provisional Application No. 60/233,583, filed September 19, 2000, to which the present application claims priority. For example, Fig. 6, which appears on page 2 of the Provisional Application, clearly depicts an arithmetic logic unit (ALU) and a 64-bit, 32-entry ternary content addressable memory (CAM). Applicants respectfully note that one skilled in the art would readily appreciate that an ALU is part of a CPU. Thus, Applicants' Provisional Application provides support for the features recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the PANDYA et al. patent is not prior art with respect to claim 1. PANDYA et al.'s filing date is October 12, 2000. Applicants' Provisional Application was filed September 19, 2000, prior to the filing by PANDYA et al. Accordingly,

PANDYA et al. cannot be considered prior art for 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) purposes with respect to

claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

based on PANDYA et al. is improper.

Claims 2-6 and 8-13 depend from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of these claims

should be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim

1.

Independent claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, processing a packet using a ternary content

addressable memory resident within an arithmetic logic unit of the network device. Applicants

note that support for this feature can be found in Applicants' Provisional Application No.

60/233,583, filed September 19, 2000, to which the present application claims priority. For

example, Fig. 6, which appears on page 2 of the Provisional Application, clearly depicts an ALU

that includes a 64-bit, 32-entry ternary CAM. Page 4 of Applicants' Provisional Application also

provides support for the above feature recited in claim 16. Thus, Applicants' Provisional

Application provides support for the above feature recited in claim 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that the PANDYA et al. patent is not prior art with respect

to claim 16. PANDYA et al.'s filing date is October 12, 2000. Applicants' Provisional

Application was filed September 19, 2000, prior to the filing by PANDYA et al. Accordingly,

PANDYA et al. cannot be considered prior art for 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) purposes with respect to

claim 16. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

based on PANDYA et al. is improper.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 16. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should

be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 16.

Independent claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, means for processing a packet using a ternary

CAM resident within a CPU of the network device. As set forth above with respect to claim 1,

Applicants' Provisional Application provides support for this feature. Accordingly, PANDYA et

al. cannot be considered prior art for 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) purposes with respect to claim 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on

PANDYA et al. is improper.

Independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, an ALU that includes a ternary CAM. Support

for this feature can be found in Fig. 6 of Applicants' Provisional Application (see pg. 2).

Accordingly, PANDYA et al. cannot be considered prior art for 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) purposes

with respect to claim 21. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 21 under 35

U.S.C. § 102(e) based on PANDYA et al. is improper.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over

PANDYA et al. in view of LINEBACK. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Since the rejection of claim 1 based on PANDYA et al.

is improper, the rejection of claim 7 based on PANDYA et al. is also improper. Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection of claim 7 based on PANDYA et al. and LINEBACK be

reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over

PANDYA et al. in view of NATARAJ et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 14 and 15 depend indirectly from claim 1. Since the rejection of claim 1 based

on PANDYA et al. is improper, the rejection of claims 14 and 15 based on PANDYA et al. is

also improper. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 14 and 15 based on

PANDYA et al. and NATARAJ et al. be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's

reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.
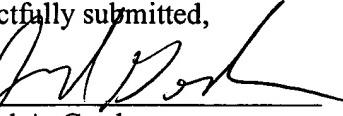
Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-128 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By

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